

Activity: Wildlife and Fisheries Management

ACTIVITY SUMMARY (\$000)

Subactivity		2002 Actual Amount	2003 Estimate Amount	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-) Amount	Program Changes (+/-) Amount	2004 Budget Request Amount	Inc(+) / Dec(-) from 2003 Amount
Wildlife Mgt	\$	25,287	22,086	+186	+151	22,423	+337
	FTE	201	191	0	+1	192	+1
Fisheries Mgt	\$	12,097	11,669	+82	+118	11,869	+200
	FTE	92	88	0	+1	89	+1
Totals	\$	37,384	33,755	+268	+269	34,292	+537
	FTE	293	279	0	+2	281	+2

ACTIVITY DESCRIPTION

The primary focus of the Wildlife and Fisheries Management activity is to ensure sound management and protection of diverse habitats while providing for environmentally responsible recreation and commercial uses. BLM's Wildlife and Fisheries Management activity funds programs and staff that provide overall management policy and direction for wildlife and fish habitats on public lands. Management actions related to federally listed threatened, endangered, or proposed fish, wildlife and rare plant resources are funded in a separate activity.

This activity supports the Department's Draft Strategic Plan by improving the health of watersheds and sustaining biological communities. The fisheries and wildlife programs strive to restore and maintain proper function conditions in BLM-managed riparian, wetland, and upland systems while providing suitable conditions for biological communities to flourish.

BLM-managed lands provide habitat for the largest number of fish and wildlife species of any single Federal agency. In addition to managing more fish and wildlife habitat than any other Federal agency, BLM lands are some of the most ecologically diverse habitats in North America. No other agency is responsible for lands that cover as many ecological communities over such a large geographic area. BLM manages the majority of some of America's premier western landscapes that include the Sonoran and Chihuahuan deserts in the Southwest, the sagebrush ecosystem in the intermountain States, the northern and central short-grass prairies grasslands, and nearly 55 million acres of forest and woodland habitats.

This activity funds fish and wildlife inventories and supports proactive habitat restoration and conservation activities, mainly through a variety of partnerships, including challenge grants managed by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. In addition, these programs play an active role in developing and implementing conservation plans for at-risk species such as the inland cutthroat trout, salmon and steelhead trout, the sage grouse, prairie dogs, and lesser

prairie chickens. BLM wildlife and fisheries specialists work closely with Federal and State partners that have shared responsibilities for management of fish and wildlife resources.

Activity: Wildlife and Fisheries Management

Subactivity: Wildlife Management

SUBACTIVITY SUMMARY (\$000)

	2002 Actual Amount	2003 Estimate Amount	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-) Amount	Program Changes (+/-) Amount	2004 Budget Request Amount	Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2003 Amount
\$(000)	25,287	22,086	+186	+151	22,423	+337
FTE	201	191	0	+1	192	+1

2004 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2004 budget request for the Wildlife Management program is \$ 22,423,000 and 192 FTE.

The BLM's wildlife management program supports the Resource Protection mission goal from the Department's Draft Strategic Plan by sustaining biological communities on BLM-managed and influenced lands and waters. Key intermediate outcome measures of performance include increasing acres and stream-miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions consistent with management plans, program objectives, and consistent with applicable requirements. In 2004, the BLM will focus on increasing the number of wetland acres inventoried and the number of species populations monitored (see "Wildlife Management Performance Summary" at the end of this subactivity discussion).

The BLM manages 262 million acres that include many of the Nation's most ecologically diverse wildlife habitat. Bureau-managed land supports over 3,000 species of big game, waterfowl, shorebirds, reptiles, amphibians, and non-game mammals.

The BLM's Wildlife Management program will continue to emphasize support of the BLM's land use planning priorities and the development of conservation plans for species at-risk, including the Gunnison and greater sage grouse; Columbia spotted frog; pygmy rabbit; white-tailed, black-tailed, and Gunnison prairie dogs, and associated habitats.



Colorado's Blanca Wetlands are home to many species of birds, including 21 special status species.

Key wildlife areas are those areas that contain significant habitat values for a particular group of

species, such as big game winter ranges, raptor nesting concentration areas, and wetland habitats for waterfowl and shorebirds. Many of the established National Conservation Areas and National Monuments are important to wildlife. However, the majority of key wildlife habitats are found outside of these special management areas, at places such as:

- California - Fort Ord and the upper Sacramento River ecosystems.
- California - Cosumnes Preserve and Dos Palmas.
- Colorado - Blanca wetlands.
- Idaho - Chilly Slough's riparian and wetland ecosystems.
- Wyoming - largest big game wintering areas in the United States. A portion of Wyoming has been compared to the Serengeti for the large numbers of deer, elk, and pronghorn antelope that concentrate in the region during the winter and early spring. In some years, the area contains over 500,000 big game animals.

Sagebrush and Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation - During 2004, the Wildlife Management program will focus on the development of comprehensive, state-level sage grouse habitat conservation strategies that link to the BLM's Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy. These strategies will be developed in close cooperation with state-led sage grouse conservation planning efforts that are currently underway through an agreement with the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies.

Great Basin Restoration Initiative - In 2004, BLM will continue to support the Great Basin Restoration Initiative as part of its overarching efforts described above for both the sagebrush and sage grouse strategies.

Migratory Bird Conservation - In 2004, BLM will initiate implementation of several actions designed to ensure compliance with the national MOU for migratory birds.

The Wildlife Management program in 2004 will also support numerous BLM management objectives, such as maintaining and restoring at-risk ecosystems; providing for environmentally responsible recreation and commercial activities; providing technical assistance; and understanding the condition of public lands. Program activities will emphasize monitoring, restoration, and maintenance of natural communities to benefit native species, and ecosystem function and processes. These activities promote healthy ecosystems to meet rangeland health, forest health, and wetland goals, and fulfill congressionally mandated goals (FLPMA, NEPA, ESA). The primary emphasis of the wildlife program in 2004 is to maintain native species and their habitats in order to prevent extinctions and the listing of species as threatened or endangered under the Endangered Species Act.

- In Alaska, BLM's wildlife program also has significant Federal subsistence program responsibilities that other BLM States do not experience. Support is provided for Regional Subsistence Advisory Councils, population monitoring efforts, and development of regulations. A significant portion of Alaska has yet to be inventoried, although the Alaska digital earth cover initiative has been highly successful in providing a digital base of resources.

- The BLM in New Mexico is a cooperator along with the U.S. Forest Service and the New Mexico Department of Game and Fish in a statewide Sikes Act program. This program brings into the BLM field offices over \$400,000 annually to implement projects for the protection, restoration, and enhancement of wildlife habitats. This program has been in effect statewide since 1991, and has resulted in the long-term enhancement of fish, wildlife, and their habitats. The projects include: prescribed fires, water catchments, watershed and riparian enhancement (salt cedar removal, gabions placement, riparian fencing), and monitoring and surveys.

2002 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Overall, BLM field units significantly out-performed their planned work in 2002 in this subactivity. Increased accomplishments in shrub and grassland inventory as well as wildlife and plant inventories were primarily due to increased emphasis on conservation planning in the sagebrush steppe and prairie grassland biomes. Both regions have been focal points for plant and animal inventories for sage grouse, swift fox, black-tailed prairie dogs and other priority species and habitats. A significant amount of this work has been accomplished under cooperative agreements with State wildlife agencies. Similar increases in acres of terrestrial habitat and past wildlife treatments monitored were due to continuing emphasis on completing rangeland health standard evaluations, particularly in the areas such as Nevada, Oregon, Idaho, Utah, Wyoming and Montana that contain the majority of habitat for at-risk species. The modest reduction in the number of species populations monitored was due to a higher priority placed by field units on completing habitat evaluations and treatments. The modest increase in shrub treatments applied was due to increased acres treated primarily as a result of post wild fire rehabilitation efforts where restoring wildlife habitat was a key objective of the project.

During 2002, more wildlife projects were maintained than planned due to increased opportunities to work cooperatively with State wildlife agencies and private conservation partners.

In 2002, major accomplishments in the Wildlife Management program included the following:

Sagebrush and Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation - The BLM manages over 50 million acres of sagebrush ecosystem, a little more than half of the remaining sagebrush habitat in the U.S. Over the past two centuries, roughly 50 percent of historical sagebrush habitat has been lost to agriculture conversion, invasion by exotic weeds, roads, and urban development that continue to plague the long-term health of the sagebrush ecosystem. Aggressive proactive management to maintain and enhance this important wildlife habitat is needed to reverse these trends. Hundreds of species of plants and animals are dependent on sagebrush habitat for their survival. Examples include mule deer, pronghorn antelope, elk, and bighorn. Other species such as the Brewer's and sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, sage grouse and pygmy rabbits are found exclusively in the sagebrush ecosystem.

- In Colorado, BLM completed six local conservation plans for the Gunnison's sage grouse, and two conservation plans for the Greater sage grouse, along with active participation in a statewide sage grouse conservation planning effort led by the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

BLM is also working closely with the Colorado on sage-grouse research (nesting, migration, predation) and in augmenting Gunnison sage grouse populations.

- In 2002, Idaho BLM worked with the Idaho Department of Fish and Game to improve understanding of sage-grouse distribution, seasonal movements and habitat status in Idaho. Cooperative efforts to develop a sage-grouse population and habitat database continued by documenting all historic and current population data. In addition, habitat mapping along with identifying population strongholds and isolated populations were almost completed. This information, once completed, will be posted on a *SAGEMAP website*.
- *In Oregon, BLM has established a Sage Grouse and Sagebrush Habitat Conservation Team to craft a comprehensive set of planning guidelines for sage grouse and sagebrush habitats. The team consists of State and Federal agencies, private landowners, conservation groups and academics. BLM is a major player in this effort. Paramount in the group's charter is that the document will cover not only sage grouse, but sage-steppe habitat and associated wildlife species.*
- In Wyoming, BLM has been participating in the development of a statewide conservation plan since July 2000. The statewide working group completed a draft of the plan in July 2002. Wyoming BLM has also recently completed a mid-scale habitat map (Wyoming Sage-Grouse Habitat Planning Map) and has provided the final map to all field offices. This map should be available to the public shortly via the Wyoming BLM web page and the SAGEMAP website.

Great Basin Restoration Initiative - In 2000, the BLM, in cooperation with many partners, initiated the Great Basin Restoration Initiative in recognition of restoration needs resulting from long-term habitat changes, including the 1999 wildfires that burned over 1.7 million acres in the Great Basin of Nevada and western Utah as well as portions of Idaho and Oregon.

Conservation of Prairie Grasslands - The BLM manages between 10 and 15 million acres of short and mixed grass prairie ecosystem in a seven-State area that extends from Canada to Mexico. No other Federal agency manages as much prairie grassland ecosystem as the BLM. Prairie Grasslands on BLM-managed lands support 136 species of birds, mammals, amphibians, and reptiles and 42 species of plants considered to be sensitive. Major threats in this region include loss of native grasslands to land conversion for agriculture, urban development, invasion by exotic species, and altered fire regimes. The BLM is working on a multiple species conservation strategy for BLM-managed lands within the entire prairie region.

- Wyoming BLM is participating in the development of the Northern Prairie and Grasslands Conservation Plan. Recommendations made through this planning effort will be applied to land use and activity plans.
- Wyoming BLM is also developing programmatic biological assessments for all threatened or endangered species in resource areas located within the Great Plains. This process will provide a more cost-effective tool for incorporating species information into all land management decisions.

The BLM, in cooperation with the U.S. Geological Survey-Biological Resources Division is also compiling available land cover mapping data and other related regional data sets to facilitate broad-to-mid-scale analysis. Similar to SageMap, this effort is called PrairieMap and is available to the public.

Migratory Bird Conservation - The BLM's Wildlife Program is actively involved in developing and implementing several national or international bird conservation initiatives, including Partners-In-Flight, the U.S. Shorebird Conservation Plan, the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, and the U.S. Colonial Waterbird Conservation Plan. Collectively, these plans are being coordinated under the auspices of the North American Bird Conservation Initiative. The BLM manages more bird habitat than any other agency, including some of the most threatened habitats in the U.S. Examples include wetlands that are critical to waterfowl and shorebirds; riparian areas that provide nesting, foraging, and migration corridors for over 400 songbirds; and grasslands from Canada to Mexico that support a large number of land birds, including the long-billed curlew, McCown's longspur, and several at-risk or federally listed species such as the mountain plover and Baird's sparrow.

- In 2002, Arizona partners completed data acquisition for the first ever breeding bird atlas for the State. This is the culmination of seven years of species occurrence data. The data will be summarized and made ready for publication in 2003. BLM is a major contributor to this effort, both in monetary contributions and volunteer labor collecting the information.

Other accomplishments for 2002 include the following:

- The Alaska digital land cover initiative, started in 1992, has been highly successful in inventorying 140 million acres at a cost of \$0.70 per acre. The Wildlife Management program has been a major contributor to the land cover projects because of responsibilities for wildlife and fish habitat and Federal subsistence
- An intern from the Chicago Botanical Garden mapped and inventoried aspen stands on public lands in northeastern California. The project was coordinated with FWS and other partners using a universal protocol. Information was collected for use in all aspects of the planning process, including the Northeast California Biological Assessment, sage grouse conservation plan, and activity plans associated with the National Fire Plan.
- BLM's Eastern States Office continued efforts to restore the Jupiter Inlet Area of Critical Environmental Concern in Florida. Major habitat restoration work included the burning of decadent vegetation and weed removal to improve the rare Florida scrub habitat that provides for a number of local special status species indigenous to Florida.
- BLM field offices in Arizona, Idaho, Nevada, and Utah have continued reintroduction and habitat improvement programs for bighorn sheep populations. In addition, the BLM continues to work closely with State wildlife agencies in reintroducing bighorn sheep into their historic habitats.

2003 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

In 2003, significant planned accomplishments include the following:

Sagebrush and Sage Grouse Habitat Restoration - BLM will develop a comprehensive BLM Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy for BLM-managed lands. The focus of BLM's Sage Grouse Habitat Conservation Strategy will be to identify risks and threats across the range of the grouse; develop national, regional and state-level strategies for addressing these risks; and initiate conservation actions in concert with State conservation planning efforts that are currently underway.

Conservation of Prairie Grasslands - The Bureau will continue to focus on the development of a multiple species conservation strategy for grassland habitats and species. During 2003, a prototype assessment for the Northern Great Plains, a 105 million acre region covering eastern Montana, the western Dakota's, and portions of northeastern Wyoming will be completed. The assessment will facilitate BLM land use planning efforts, as well as conservation planning for prairie dogs, sage grouse, mountain plovers and other species of concern in the region. Also in 2003, BLM will initiate similar analysis for the central and short-grass prairies in Colorado, New Mexico, and portions of Arizona.

Lesser Prairie Chicken Conservation - BLM is implementing a collaborative conservation planning process for lesser prairie chicken and associated habitats in Carlsbad, New Mexico. This process will build upon a successful model approach that BLM has already implemented in the Roswell field office for which the BLM was recognized at the 2002 North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference in Dallas, Texas. Lesser prairie chickens have been declining in New Mexico for several years and there is increasing concern that this species will be listed under the ESA.

Migratory Bird Conservation - BLM will continue to work with a large coalition of Federal and State agencies and non-Federal conservation organizations on migratory bird conservation issues. BLM has also been actively involved in supporting the Intermountain West, the Northern Great Plains, Central Valley, and Pacific Coast Joint Ventures as well as State Partners-In-Flight and regional shorebird conservation planning efforts.

JUSTIFICATION OF 2004 PROGRAM CHANGES

2004 PROGRAM CHANGES

	2004 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
\$(000)	22,423	+151
FTE	192	+1

The 2004 budget request for Wildlife Management is \$22,423,000 and 192 FTE, a program change of +\$151,000 and +1 FTE from the 2003 requested level.

Resource Monitoring, (+\$250,000) – The BLM recognizes that systematic resource monitoring has not been a sufficient priority in the past, and OMB's recent Program Assessment Ratings Tool of BLM's restoration function highlighted this insufficiency. Resource protection enhancements require long-term, large-scale, cumulative effects monitoring to measure the effects of management of all programs and authorized uses over a long time. Monitoring wildlife and fish habitat is essential to creating habitat conditions in which biological communities will flourish. Increased funding for monitoring will be applied towards the following projects:

- Alaska will develop and provide Geographical Information Systems products to land managers to examine land health. GIS products include land cover, hydrography, elevation, and watershed spatial data sets.
- In California, the Cosumnes River Preserve Partnership cooperatively share management of lands and supervision of employees on the project. In 2004, on behalf of the partnership, 500 acres of habitat will be inventoried by the BLM Preserve Manager. Data will be used to manage the preserve more effectively.
- The Gunnison Basin in Colorado supports the only remaining viable population of Gunnison Sage Grouse. Additionally, the basin supports the endangered southwestern willow flycatcher. Increased funding will support monitoring of sage grouse as specified in the 1995 Gunnison Sage Grouse Conservation Plan.
- Bat populations continue to decline as more habitat is destroyed. As their natural habitat declines, bats have shifted to using mine shafts and adits as roosting sites. Colorado will use increased funding to inventory and monitor bat populations in abandoned mines and construct bat friendly gates to protect human safety while allowing the bats ingress and egress into these important habitats.
- Montana will use increased funding to conduct two raptor nesting surveys for golden eagles, northern goshawks, ferruginous hawks, Swainson's hawks, peregrine falcon, and others. The inventory and monitoring data provide a baseline for examining population changes over time with respect to increased commercial activities.
- Habitat monitoring will be conducted in Nevada to evaluate crucial big game, critical sage grouse, and special status species habitats. Five hundred thousand acres of terrestrial habitat will be assessed.
- Baseline inventory will occur in the following five Research Natural Areas in Oregon: Benjamin, Forest Creeks, Horse Ridge, Powell Butte, and The Island. Long-term monitoring in RNAs is important to scientifically describe the major plant communities for which the areas were designated.
- The Upper Sevier River in Utah has been categorized as a Category I High Priority Watershed as part of the Clean Water Action Plan. This river and associated uplands provide habitat for the Utah prairie dog, Bonneville cutthroat trout, sage grouse, and Autumn buttercup. As restoration actions are implemented, it will be necessary to monitor these species to determine impacts to threatened and endangered species.

- Wyoming will conduct long-term studies on aspen communities, ferruginous hawks, and mountain plovers. This data will be used to create computer models that will provide information to managers for use in making management decisions.

Resource Protection (National Landscape Conservation System Restoration), (\$200,000) – The mission of the NLCS is to conserve and manage nationally significant landscapes that have outstanding cultural, ecological, scientific, and social values for the benefit of current and future generations. BLM will use this funding increase to support the Resource Protection mission goal of the Department's Draft Strategic Plan by enhancing or restoring upland and riparian habitats.



Research projects help the BLM to acquire information that is necessary for making management decisions.

- Las Cienegas NCA and Vermillion Cliffs NM, Arizona** – Efforts will maintain and restore upland and riparian habitat for wildlife in these three areas. Funding will also be used to acquire baseline data for wildlife and support scientific research.
- Birds of Prey NCA, Idaho** – This NCA was established to provide conservation, protection, and restoration of raptor populations and habitats. The NCA contains 500,000 acres of public land that supports the densest known raptor nesting population in North America. This project will focus on habitat restoration in areas with Off Highway Vehicle damage.
- Steens Mountain CMPA, Oregon** - The east slope of the Steens Mountain will be restored with native grasses, forbs, and shrubs to create a more healthy and productive ecosystem. These native species will enhance big game habitat, soil stability and watershed improvement.

Information Technology, (-\$299,000) - The Department and BLM are undertaking significant information technology reforms to: improve the management of IT investments, enhance the security of IT systems and information, and realize short and long-term efficiencies and savings. The Department is taking a corporate approach that will include consolidated purchases of hardware and software, consolidation of support functions including helpdesks, email support, web services, and training. Savings will be possible by reducing, but not eliminating, IT support services at Bureau field offices and consolidating these services at the national level.

Reductions to specific BLM IT systems are also proposed. These reductions are possible because of deferring or canceling system enhancements on the Management Information System; the Federal Human Resource Information System; the Smart Card program; the Corporate Metadata Repository; the IT Enterprise Information Portal; LAWNET, which tracks law enforcement incidents and responses; Tivoli, a management tool that permits updates of

software from remote locations; and Nobility, which standardizes the Bureau's efforts to automate the NEPA process.

The primary output of processing cultural and paleontological use permits is demand-driven. Although the numbers of permits processed has steadily climbed over the years, numbers could potentially bounce up and down based on the number of firms and individuals seeking permits from BLM. This workload is difficult to predict.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection

End Outcome Goal: Sustain biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allotment and use of water.

End Outcome Measures:	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Percent of species of management concern that are managed to self-sustaining levels, in cooperation with affected States and others, as defined in approved management plans. *Species of management concern include Federal and State listed species and BLM-defined special status species.	Not Measured	Not Measured	Not Measured	Establish Baseline	Establish Initial Target	N/A
Percent of acres/miles/sites achieving desired wildlife habitat conditions as specified in management plans. (BLM Measure)	Not Measured	Not Measured	Not Measured	Establish Baseline	Establish Initial Target	N/A

Intermediate Outcome Goal 1: Create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

Intermediate Outcome Measures:	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Habitat Restoration: Acres and stream miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions consistent with management plans, program objectives, and consistent with applicable substantive and procedural requirements of State and Federal water law:						
Miles	714	610	610	630	650	+20
Acres	13,800	9,500	6,350	9,500	9,500	+0

Intermediate Outcome Goal 3: Improve information and assessments for decision-making.

Intermediate Outcome Measures:	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Management Plans: Increase % of acres of BLM lands and waters with current resource management plans in place that include condition objectives for biological communities. (BLM Measure)	Not Measured	Not Measured	Not Measured	Establish Baseline	Establish Initial Target	N/A
Status and Trends: Percent of populations managed or influenced by DOI [BLM] for which current condition (e.g., quality/quantity) and trend is known.	Not Measured	Not Measured	Not Measured	Establish Baseline	Establish Initial Target	N/A

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Primary Outputs funded by this subactivity:	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Inventory Shrub/Grasslands/PJ (acres).	2,892,000	963,000	3,092,000	2,350,000	2,300,000	-50,000
Inventory for Presence of Invasive and/or Noxious weeds (acres).	1,000	44,000	44,000	50,000	50,000	+0
Inventory Lakes/Wetland Areas (acres).	350	250	250	0	200	+200
Inventory Wildlife/Plant Habitat (acres).	6,687,000	5,364,000	6,747,000	4,800,000	4,800,000	+0
Apply Shrub/Grassland Vegetation Treatments (acres).	628,000	70,000	75,000	75,000	75,000	+0
Construct Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number).	130	120	175	130	130	+0
Maintain Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number).	570	620	810	600	600	+0
Apply Weed Treatments (acres).	800	400	500	500	500	+0
Apply Lake/Wetland Treatments (acres).	100	2,250	2,250	3,150	2,200	-950
Construct Lake/Wetland/Stream/Riparian Projects (number).	30	10	10	10	10	+0
Maintain Lake/Wetland/Stream/Riparian Projects (number).	30	30	35	30	30	+0
Implement Species Recovery/Conservation Actions (number).	5	20	20	25	25	+0
Evaluate Weed Treatments (acres).	0	1,000	1,000	1,000	1,000	+0
Monitor Lake/Wetland Habitat (acres).	10,200	7,400	8,400	4,500	4,000	-500
Monitor Stream/Riparian Habitat (miles).	0	40	40	50	50	+0
Monitor Terrestrial Habitat (acres).	15,992,000	8,054,000	11,542,000	10,000,000	10,000,000	+0
Monitor Species Populations (number).	990	1,860	1,620	1,500	1,575	+75
Monitor Shrub/Grassland Vegetation Treatments (acres).	74,100	163,000	168,400	215,000	215,000	+0

Activity: Wildlife and Fisheries Management

Subactivity: Fisheries Management

SUBACTIVITY SUMMARY (\$000)

	2002 Actual Amount	2003 Estimate Amount	Uncontrollable & Related Changes (+/-) Amount	Program Changes (+/-) Amount	2004 Budget Request Amount	Inc(+) Dec(-) from 2003 Amount
\$(000)	12,097	11,669	+82	+118	11,869	+200
FTE	92	88	0	+1	89	+1

2004 PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The 2004 budget request for the Fisheries Management program is \$11,869,000 and 89 FTE.

The Fisheries Management program supports the Resource Protection mission goal from the Department's Draft Strategic Plan by sustaining biological communities on BLM-managed and influenced lands and waters. Key intermediate outcome measures of performance include increasing acres and stream-miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions consistent with management plans, program objectives, and consistent with applicable requirements (see "Fisheries Management Performance Summary" at the end of this subactivity discussion).

The BLM manages lands that directly affect over 117,000 miles of fish-bearing streams and 3 million acres of reservoirs and natural lakes. Fish-bearing waters on BLM lands are diverse, ranging from isolated desert springs harboring populations of rare and unique fishes, to areas of large interior Columbia River tributaries supporting anadromous and resident fishes of exceptional regional and national value. These waters also support subsistence fisheries that sustain Native American cultural-traditional heritage, as well as fisheries providing recreational opportunities for the burgeoning human population of the western United States. The Fisheries Management program provides support to all BLM's land use activities, most notably grazing and rangeland management and energy development. The Fisheries Management program also supports substantive proactive habitat restoration and conservation activities, mainly through challenge cost-share partnerships with Federal, State and non-governmental organizations.

Columbia River Salmon Recovery - The current Federal effort to recover salmon in the Columbia Basin began in 1994, when a Federal court invalidated the biological opinion developed for the Federal Columbia River Power System. The resulting recovery strategy, completed in 2000, is an aggressive "no breach" strategy that does not call for breaching the lower four Snake River dams. This recovery strategy has two parts. The first is an FCRPS

biological opinion, to be implemented by the Corps of Engineers, Bonneville Power Administration, and the Bureau of Reclamation (the "Action Agencies"). The biological opinion by itself, however, was determined by the National Marine Fisheries Service to be insufficient to avoid jeopardy to salmon. NMFS determined that off-site mitigation (the improving of salmon survival in other life stages) was needed to make up for the high levels of mortality at the hydro projects. The second part of the recovery strategy included a conceptual recovery plan (called the All H Paper) that was developed by a larger group of Federal agencies. Taken together, NMFS determined that these two strategies (known as the FCRPS Biological Opinion and the All H Paper) were determined to avoid jeopardy.

As a major land manager in the Columbia Basin, the BLM participated in development of the All H Paper. The Bureau agreed to implement specific actions as funding allowed. These actions included maintaining strong aquatic protection strategies throughout the basin, adjusting ongoing activities that were a detriment to salmon, and, in the short term, accelerating restoration in seven priority subbasins. The BLM currently spends approximately \$10.8 million in salmon restoration efforts in the Columbia Basin, with that funding provided from the Oregon and California Grant Lands appropriation, the Wildland Fire Management appropriation, several subactivities in the Management of Lands and Resources appropriation, including the Fisheries Management program, and Title II funds under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000.

Clean Water and Watershed Restoration – The Clean Water Act of 1987, as amended, establishes objectives to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation's water. Riparian and wetland areas are key components of retaining and releasing clean water for downstream users. The BLM places a high priority on the sustainable management and improvement of riparian and wetlands systems and uplands. Funding for the Fisheries Management program in 2004 will support efforts to enhance clean water, conserve and restore native fisheries habitat, restore flood plain function, reduce non-native vegetation, and remove roads causing sedimentation. Following are examples of the types of projects that will receive funding in 2004:

- BLM Alaska will conduct watershed assessments that will provide baseline data on the following watershed factors: meteorological; surface water; ground water; physical and chemical processes, erosion; soils; runoff; vegetation types; and geology.
- Erosion in Mattie and Wood Canyons within the Las Cienegas NCA in Arizona is contributing to destruction of habitat of two endangered fish species in Cienega Creek. BLM Arizona will evaluate, design, construct, and maintain erosion control structures in these two canyons.
- The Blanca Wetlands in Colorado is recognized as a nationally significant shorebird site that provides habitat for shorebirds as well as federally listed and sensitive species of plants and animals. Funding will contribute to the annual maintenance and operation of the Blanca Wetlands and maintenance of the existing wells. Current partners include the Colorado Duck Stamp, Duck's Unlimited, Colorado Wetlands Initiative, National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, and the Colorado Division of Wildlife.

- The Lemhi River Watershed Total Maximum Daily Limit Implementation Plan requires Idaho BLM to monitor certain aspects of the Lemhi River, including surveys for threatened and endangered fish and resident fish species; core sampling; and streambank stability monitoring. The Idaho Department of Fish and Game is a principle partner for this project.
- Montana BLM will expand riparian condition assessments to include macroinvertebrate sampling to determine if there is a correlation between riparian areas in proper functioning condition and macroinvertebrate species occurrence.
- The South Fork of the Little Humboldt In Nevada is a Lahontan cutthroat trout recovery stream. In 2004, BLM will maintain exclosure fences which will provide increased flows, reduced temperature fluctuations, reduced runoff and sedimentation, and increased riparian cover to this important aquatic habitat.
- In Oregon, the Deep Creek Watershed project will improve and stabilize stream segments through stream bank stabilization, restoration of the flood plain, installation of fish passages, and fish screening projects. Through project implementation, creeks within this watershed will likely return to proper functioning condition and prevent the need to federally list the interior redband trout.
- Wyoming BLM will maintain projects that directly affect water quality of creeks throughout the State.

2002 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ACCOMPLISHMENTS

In most cases, the Fisheries Management program accomplishments were close to planned units for the majority of primary program elements. Unexpected additional opportunities and accomplishments were realized in the completion of watershed assessments. Accomplishments in lake and wetland treatments were significantly less than planned units. Specific reasons for discrepancies between target and planned lake and wetland treatments include unplanned and shifting priorities related to fire and external factors.

In 2002, major accomplishments in the Fisheries Management program included the following:

- In Arizona, BLM completed the 10-year Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement program. In partnership with Anglers United, Arizona Game and Fish Department, Bureau of Reclamation, FWS, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, and California Department of Fish and Game, the Lake Havasu Fisheries Improvement program provided 875 acres of permanent underwater fish habitat, 6 shoreline public fishing access points, and associated facilities. Two endangered fish populations were also augmented with hatchery raised fish. Besides the efforts of personnel affiliated with the above organizations, over 175,000 hours of volunteer labor were used to complete the Lake Havasu project.
- BLM staff engaged in stream and upland restoration activities on Three Mile Creek, in southwestern Utah. BLM and the U.S. Forest Service in partnership with the Utah Division

of Wildlife Resources, Utah Power and Light, and local Boy Scouts initiated a project to develop the Three Mile Riparian Demonstration Area. Three Mile Creek is severely degraded by road impacts, past grazing practices, and natural flooding events. Fisheries and riparian objectives in this multi-disciplinary project included improving fish habitat for native Colorado River cutthroat, a Utah species of concern; increasing the aesthetic and recreational value of the area; and using the area for riparian research and education. Management actions in the project included: prescribed burns and seeding to improve vegetation diversity and forage production; fencing creek bottoms to control livestock use of the riparian area; tree and shrub planting to increase stream shading; installation of a fish barrier to exclude non-native salmonid species; and adjustment of the year-long grazing system to a seasonal grazing prescription to prevent seasonal deterioration of the riparian area.

2003 PROGRAM PERFORMANCE ESTIMATES

In 2003, the BLM will focus on the following projects:

- National emphasis will remain on management of salmonids and associated habitats in the Pacific Northwest, where the Bureau continues to manage the majority of the habitat identified as important for the persistence, survival, and recovery of anadromous species. Current priorities include: Columbia River salmon; PACFISH/INFISH Policy Implementation; essential fish habitat; and ESA Section 7 Consultation regarding herbicidal use for noxious weed control.
- State and field office fisheries staff are coordinating with other Federal agencies, Trout Unlimited, and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation in refocusing the Bring Back the Natives program and on several conservation strategies and agreements for inland cutthroat trout sub-species. Efforts will continue on conservation and recovery planning efforts on inland cutthroat trout species (and other native fishes) to help restore species listed as threatened or endangered and proactively plan efforts to prevent further listings of additional species units. Fisheries biologists continue to engage FISHNET partners on emerging issues, including recreational fishing on western lands and factors affecting professional fisheries workforce demographics.
- The BLM will continue to develop new techniques to assess land and watershed condition through biomonitoring of aquatic resources to support the development of conservation and recovery strategies for aquatic dependent species; and to identify land uses and patterns in land use activities affecting aquatic resource condition. The biomonitoring effort will provide the quantitative framework for conducting



BLM is partnering with Trout Unlimited, a leading national aquatic resource organization, to evaluate the effects of land use and habitat fragmentation on Lahontan cutthroat trout in Maggie Creek, northeastern Nevada.

multi-scale analyses of aquatic condition. This includes integrating of local and regional information to address cumulative effects within aquatic resources across landscapes.

- Clean Water and Watershed Restoration funding will be used to support habitat restoration and conservation projects focusing on native fishes. The projects include the Deep Creek Watershed Restoration project in Oregon, which will improve and stabilize stream segments and riparian habitats to enhance instream habitat for native salmonid and non-salmonid fishes; and the Riparian-Biomonitoring project in Montana, which will relate riparian habitat assessments to indicators of aquatic condition to establish methodologies for developing integrated and objective assessments of land use activity effects.

The following are examples of collaborative and cooperative management activities and projects that have been and will continue to be funded in the Fisheries Management program:

- BLM in Montana is moving forward with implementation of a conservation agreement for westslope cutthroat trout (the only native trout in Montana), a BLM sensitive species that has been proposed for Federal listing as threatened. The conservation strategy provides standards and guidelines for resource management to avoid the loss of remaining pure populations of westslope cutthroat trout.
- In Nevada, BLM continues the recovery of high priority populations of Lahontan cutthroat trout in the Great Basin by maintaining and restoring riparian/aquatic habitats that support the trout. Through interagency agreements, the BLM staff collect stream flow information on the Marys River basin to provide data critical for assessing the success of implementing improved livestock grazing systems on stream flows within the watershed.

JUSTIFICATION OF 2004 PROGRAM CHANGES

2004 PROGRAM CHANGES

	2004 Budget Request	Program Changes (+/-)
\$(000)	11,869	+118
FTE	89	+1

The 2004 budget request for the Fisheries Management program is \$11,869,000 and 89 FTE, a program change of +\$118,000 and +1 FTE from the 2003 requested level.

Resource Monitoring, (+\$250,000) – The BLM recognizes that systematic resource monitoring has not been a sufficient priority in the past, and OMB's recent Program Assessment Ratings Tool of BLM's restoration function highlighted this insufficiency. Resource protection enhancements require long-term, large-scale, cumulative effects monitoring to measure the effects of management of all programs and authorized uses over time. Cumulative effects monitoring will help to determine if changes are needed in management to reach land use plan objectives. Monitoring fish habitat is essential to creating habitat conditions in which biological

communities will flourish; enhancing the program's information base; implementing or modifying management practices; and providing technical assistance to the BLM's numerous partners. Following are monitoring projects that will be implemented with increased funding:

- Field data from past aquatic projects has accumulated in various field offices in Alaska. With increased funding, the data will be organized and processed into the Aquatic Resources Information Management System. This project will update the ARIMS and allow for greater sharing of data with other Federal, State, and local agencies.
- In Alaska, increased funding will provide support for GIS projects and spatial data sets such as land cover, hydrography, and watersheds, and to provide maintenance on data systems such as ARIMS.
- Aquatic monitoring in Colorado's Gunnison Basin will be conducted. Gunnison Basin riparian areas provide habitat for bald eagles, southwestern willow flycatcher, and a variety of neotropical migratory birds. Additionally, some of the rivers and streams have the potential of becoming gold medal fisheries. Monitoring of this important habitat is not only ecologically important, but economically too.
- The BLM will inventory lands managed by the Missoula Field Office to determine the presence of special status amphibians. If species are found, conservation measures would be incorporated into land use and activity plans to ensure compliance with BLM's policy that special status species must be managed in a way that will not cause a species to be listed.
- In Southwest Montana, aquatic inventories will be completed on three miles of streams to assess habitat quality and identify areas for reintroductions of westslope cutthroat trout.
- Nevada BLM and the Nevada Division of Wildlife will cost-share a project to inventory fish populations and riparian and stream habitat conditions on streams in northeast Nevada. This information is essential for managing habitat for the federally threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout.
- The BLM will expand aquatic macro invertebrate sampling to determine stream health in riparian areas in Nevada. This is one component of BLM's "Aquatic Indicators of Land Condition" project to integrate data of distribution and diversity of aquatic fauna with land status information to define key factors affecting watershed condition.
- Nevada will continue to collect stream flow information from stream gages located in the Upper Humboldt Basin, Marys River sub-basin. This data is critical for determining the effect and the amount of irrigation diversion and assessing the impacts of grazing systems occurring within the watershed.
- BLM will monitor the effectiveness of restoration projects being implemented on the Sevier River. Increased funding will allow BLM to study these effects. The Upper Sevier River Sub-basin is designated as a Category I High Priority Watershed under the Clean Water Action Plan. The north end of the sub-basin is on the State of Utah 303(d) list of impaired

waters. The Sevier River provides habitat for the following listed or special status species: Utah prairie dog, Bonneville cutthroat trout, sage grouse, and Autumn buttercup.

Information Technology, (-\$132,000) - The Department and BLM are undertaking significant information technology reforms to: improve the management of IT investments, enhance the security of IT systems and information, and realize short and long-term efficiencies and savings. The Department is taking a corporate approach that will include consolidated purchases of hardware and software, consolidation of support functions including helpdesks, email support, web services, and training. Savings will be possible by reducing, but not eliminating, IT support services at Bureau field offices and consolidating these services at the national level.

Reductions to specific BLM IT systems are also proposed. These reductions are possible because of deferring or canceling system enhancements on the Management Information System; the Federal Human Resource Information System; the Smart Card program; the Corporate Metadata Repository; the IT Enterprise Information Portal; LAWNET, which tracks law enforcement incidents and responses; Tivoli, a management tool that permits updates of software from remote locations; and Nobility, which standardizes the Bureau's efforts to automate the NEPA process.

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

DOI Strategic Goal: Resource Protection

End Outcome Goal: Sustain biological communities on DOI managed and influenced lands and waters in a manner consistent with obligations regarding the allotment and use of water.

End Outcome Measures:	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Percent of acres/miles/sites achieving desired conditions as specified in management plans. (BLM Measure)	Not Measured	Not Measured	Not Measured	Establish Baseline	Establish Initial Target	N/A

Intermediate Outcome Goal 1: Create habitat conditions for biological communities to flourish.

Intermediate Outcome Measures:	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Habitat Restoration: Acres and stream miles restored or enhanced to achieve habitat conditions consistent with management plans, program objectives, and consistent with applicable substantive and procedural requirements of State and Federal water law:						
Miles	714	610	610	630	650	+20
Acres	13,800	9,500	6,350	9,500	9,500	+0

FISHERIES MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

Intermediate Outcome Goal 3: Improve information and assessments for decision-making.						
Intermediate Outcome Measures:	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Management Plans: Percent of acres of DOI lands and waters with current resource management plans in place that include condition objectives for biological communities. (BLM Measure)	Not Measured	Not Measured	Not Measured	Establish Baseline	Establish Initial Target	N/A
Status and Trends: Percent of populations managed or influenced by DOI [BLM] for which current condition (e.g., quality/quantity) and trend is known.	Not Measured	Not Measured	Not Measured	Establish Baseline	Establish Initial Target	N/A
Primary Outputs funded by this subactivity:	2001 Actual	2002 Plan	2002 Actual	2003 Plan	2004 Proposed	Change in Performance (2003 to 2004)
Inventory water resources (number).	15	160	160	150	150	+0
Complete watershed assessments (acres).	0	300	5,300	0	0	+0
Inventory Shrub/Grasslands/PJ (acres).	244,000	0	0	200,000	0	-200,000
Inventory Lakes/Wetland Areas (acres).	4,500	3,100	3,800	3,700	3,600	-100
Inventory Streams/Riparian Areas (miles).	500	500	500	500	500	+0
Inventory Wildlife/Plant Habitat (acres).	10,000	800	800	0	0	+0
Construct Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number).	5	2	3	5	0	-5
Maintain Shrub, Grassland, Woodland, Forest Projects (number).	5	10	10	5	0	-5
Apply Lake/Wetland Treatments (acres).	3,650	2,475	540	800	670	-130
Apply Stream/Riparian Treatments (miles).	65	85	80	175	130	-45
Construct Lake/Wetland/Stream/Riparian Projects (number).	45	85	80	75	75	+0
Maintain Lake/Wetland/Stream/Riparian Projects (number).	70	70	95	75	100	+25
Implement Species Recovery/Conservation Actions (number).	5	20	15	25	20	-5
Monitor Lake/Wetland Habitat (acres).	2,800	2,350	2,350	2,500	3,000	+500
Monitor Stream/Riparian Habitat (miles).	600	800	910	1,400	1,000	-400
Monitor Terrestrial Habitat (acres).	0	1,000	1,000	0	0	+0
Monitor Species Populations (number).	200	230	230	200	230	+30
Monitor water resources (number).	130	110	110	100	100	+0